

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 425

By Weaver

A RESOLUTION to honor, recognize and pay tribute to the
Carthage Courier on the occasion of the
publication's 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the reporting, of which this publication has been an integral part, has helped to weave the very fabric of our rural communities chronicling the events of births, deaths, family, farm, history, political, and the social well being of Smith County; and

WHEREAS, having been established with the first edition being published on July 3, 1913, by the late Jere Gardenhire at 2nd Avenue and Main Street in Carthage; and

WHEREAS, because of a fire it was relocated to what would become known as the "Courier Building" at 3rd and Main Street where publication began in 1917 with the addition of a new partner, Fred Myers, a partnership that endured for twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, under new ownership, Sam K. Neal and Florian E. (Sandy) Wood brought twenty-five years of newspaper experience to the readers and published the first edition under their ownership on August 3, 1939, promising in their opening editorial that "we want to keep it your paper"; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 1946, the announcement was made that Andy Reid had become a partner with Mr. Neal succeeding Sandy Wood and together Mr. Neal and Mr. Reid owned and operated the paper until the death of Mr. Neal in 1969 and Mr. Reid in 1975; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Mr. Herschel Lake acquired the *Carthage Courier* from the widows, Mrs. Roberta Neal and Mrs. Andy Reid, and Mr. Lake continues ownership through the 100th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, under the ownership of Mr. Lake, the paper relocated from the Courier Building to the site of the former Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation building on Main Street North where it continues publication to this date; and

WHEREAS, the paper has continued to be the only print media voice for Smith County and has flourished under its editors, including Murphy Fair, Chris Baxter, John "Buddy" Murchison, and Mitchell S. "Stony" Merriman; and

WHEREAS, the *Carthage Courier* has been the voice of Smith County having never missed a weekly publication since its inception and has been in the capable hands of Mr. Scott Winfree as publisher since 1987 and Mr. Eddie West as Editor since 1984 and under their leadership has been the recipients of many awards and accolades from the Tennessee Press Association; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend a very distinguished business, the *Carthage Courier*, upon the very special occasion of the newspaper's 100th Anniversary on July 3, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.